Direct communication between the right pulmonary artery and the left atrium: presenting with other congenital anomalies

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Direct communication between the right pulmonary artery and the left atrium is a rare congenital vascular malformation. The described case also had concomitant atrial septal defects, patent ductus arteriosus, pectus carinatum, hypospadias balanic and epidural haematoma (Fig. 1). We treated this anomaly successfully with surgery in a 5-year old boy (Fig. 2).

Figure 1: Echocardiography showing a large fistula with a diameter of 7 mm between the right pulmonary artery and the enlarged left atrium (A and B). CT scan showing an epidural hematoma (C). RA: right atrium; LA: left atrium; RPA: right pulmonary artery; AO: aorta; PA: pulmonary artery; RVOT: right ventricular outflow tract.

Figure 2: Intraoperative view of the doubly ligated fistula between the right main pulmonary artery and the left atrium. SVC: superior vena cava; RPA: right pulmonary artery; LA: left atrium; AO: aorta.